

Gallery of Art and Strawberry Banke, a historical site in Portsmouth.

This strong commitment by the firm to providing the opportunity for arts programs to come to the State is truly commendable. The firm understands the true importance of the arts in communities, and without their generous support, these programs would not be possible. The firm has taken on new projects, most notably a year 2000 celebration with cultural activities such as a Black Heritage Trail and a YMCA art auction. These sort of events enrich the lives of the entire community and prove that private businesses can indeed make a huge impact on bringing the arts to all citizens. It is an honor to serve the firm and its employees in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO J. MICHAEL HICKEY, 2000 YANKEE AWARD RECIPIENT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Michael Hickey, for his recognition by the Yankee Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America as the 2000 Yankee Award Recipient.

Mike is the president and CEO of Bell Atlantic New Hampshire, a company that faithfully upholds the ideals of corporate responsibility, good citizenship and core values. Mike has taken the role of CEO to a whole new level of relationship building by embracing those around him, not only within his company, but within the surrounding community as well. He consistently works hard to ensure that all employee and business concerns are met and addressed. It is his dedication to relationship building that exemplifies what public relations is all about.

Mike is an extraordinary leader who leads by example, most notably by his involvement with numerous non-profit organizations. As chairman of Kids Voting New Hampshire and the former campaign chairman of the Greater Manchester United Way, Mike demonstrates the importance of civic responsibility and giving back to the community. He listens carefully to others and diligently tries to bring the disenfranchised into the inner circle. He makes people feel included and valued. His board membership in the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the NH Business & Industry Association, and the NH High Tech Council prove his true commitment to the advancement of New Hampshire's businesses and economy. He is the type of leader who encourages those around him to give above and beyond one hundred percent of themselves. As a result, Bell Atlantic sponsors a number of community events aimed at educating and guiding youths and adults throughout the state, such as the Smithsonian Folklife Exhibit from New Hampshire and the Celebrate New Hampshire Culture Festival.

Mike's hard work, determination and ability to motivate those around him to reach greater heights are truly commendable. His strong concern for the common good is admirable. He has truly illustrated the qualities of strong leadership and interpersonal relationship skills. Mike, it is an honor to represent you in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LAUREN JENNIFER MEEHAN—MISS NEW HAMPSHIRE 2000

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a young woman who has given selflessly to her community, inspired her peers and has been chosen to represent the great state of New Hampshire in the Miss America pageant in 2000, Lauren Jennifer Meehan.

Lauren, crowned both Miss Lakes Region and Miss New Hampshire, is a 1998 graduate of Nashua Senior High School. Not only did she graduate in the top ten percent of her class, she went on to continue her education at the University of New Hampshire, where she is a sophomore majoring in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. In addition to her premedical program course work, she minors in English as well.

Despite a double major and challenging courses, Lauren finds time for her singing passion, performing with the All-State Classical Choir for the past 3 years, and she gives back to the surrounding community through her involvement as a kindergarten catechism teacher at St. Thomas Moore Parish, as well as a Wentworth Douglas Emergency Room volunteer.

Her platform of attachment and adjustment disorders in children is especially poignant in an age where violence and mental disturbance with America's youth is all too common. Her dreams of entering the field of Pediatric Neurology will surely allow her to further research this field of study.

Lauren is an excellent student who cares about her community and the state. Her talents, hard work and dedication are truly commendable, and it is an honor to represent her in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT WASHINGTON HOTEL AND RESORT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort for their designation as one of the Businesses of the Decade by Business New Hampshire Magazine.

For the past ten years, under the direction of partners Joel and Cathy Bedard, the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort has become a cornerstone of the White Mountain Community, providing not only a place for the people of New Hampshire to rest and relax,

but giving back to the surrounding community as well.

The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort had not been locally owned until 1991, after several failed business ventures attempted to capitalize on the property. The hard work and dedication of each individual who worked on renovating and revitalizing the hotel is truly commendable. As a result, the Mount Washington Hotel and Resort was saved from demolition and currently thrives as one of New Hampshire's greatest treasures.

The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort is the largest employer in the local economy, providing 450 jobs in the summer months and 550 throughout the winter season. They are also an active member of their community, lending their support to programs such as New Hampshire Public Television, the Littleton Regional Hospital Auxiliary and other worthy programs and causes.

The Mount Washington Hotel and Resort is a true friend to the people of New Hampshire. Their efforts over the past ten years are truly commendable, and it is an honor to represent them in the United States Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO OLDE PORT BANK— NH BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARD WINNER

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Olde Port Bank for its recognition as a 2000 New Hampshire "Business in the Arts" award winner in the small company category.

Olde Port Bank proves that time and money are not the only key factors necessary for the successful continuation of arts programs. They have provided exhibit space in its offices and lobbies and promoted the activities of employees and customers who are artists as well. It is this sort of personal attention and support that make various programs available to the local community. The bank also understands the importance of a strong financial backbone, and helps to secure loans and credit lines so that the arts can remain part of the seacoast community.

The Children's Museum of Portsmouth is one such grateful recipient of Olde Port Bank's efforts. The bank has given generous financial support for an endowment fund to the museum and established corporate membership and sponsorship. Bank employees spend countless hours assisting the museum in many of its events and activities. This sort of high participation is a testament to the staff's deep dedication to making the arts more accessible to the Portsmouth community.

Olde Port Bank recognizes the importance of arts in education and the community. Forty percent of the bank's contributions budget is earmarked for arts organizations in the Portsmouth area, and this support is consistently